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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



SOUTHEAST ASIA ACTIVITY REPORT

SELECTED TRANSPORTATION AND INFILTRATION COMPENDIUM

ROAD STUDY, ROUTE 7

NPIC/R-128/67

JULY 1967

SUMMARY NO 54

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WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

PREFACE

This report is a summary of selected information on transportation and infiltration activity in southeast Asia as reported by NPIC during the period indicated on the cover. Those lines of communication and associated facilities which support communist insurgency in Laos and South Vietnam are emphasized.

Items are numbered and arranged according to location from north to south. Annotated maps of varying scales have been included to assist the reader in locating the items. Each large-scale map depicts all motorable roads photographically confirmed by NPIC unless otherwise indicated.

Missions, mission dates, frames, and NPIC cable and briefing board references are listed after each item, as appropriate.

ROAD STUDY, ROUTE 7

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Route 7 connects North Vietnam Route 1A and Laos Route 13 via the Col Barthelemy Pass and is the primary supply route in support of Pathet Lao operations in the Plaine Des Jarres area. Originally of macadam before years of disuse following WWII, Route 7 today is a well-maintained road, [REDACTED] with sufficient drainage to provide an all-weather capability.

This study is limited -- primarily due to photographic coverage -- to a 98-nm segment between Khe Bo, North Vietnam (19-09N 104-40E), and Ban Ban, Laos (19-37N 103-33E). The road alignment presented on the accompanying maps is correct and follows that of the AMS Series L7014 with only slight modification. This segment of the road generally parallels the Song Ca, Nam Mo, and Nam Mat (rivers), which provide a ready source of aggregate for road maintenance (Figure 9). These rivers are crossed at only two points (Figures 16, 17, and 23) and, while a variety of methods have been employed, they appear to present no serious problem to vehicular movement.

Fifty-four facilities are dispersed along the road segment and their relatively small size indicates that they are used primarily in support of through traffic -- traffic which appears equally divided between continuing west from Ban Ban on Route 7 and proceeding north on Route 61 (Figure 25). No major storage facilities have been identified other than at Nong Het (Figure 18) and this area evidences a very low level of activity. Although unrelated to the vehicular movement along Route 7, the lignite coal mine at the eastern extremity of the study is included because of its location adjacent to the Route and its interest in general (Figures 4-7).

A description of the facilities, arranged in east to west order, follows:

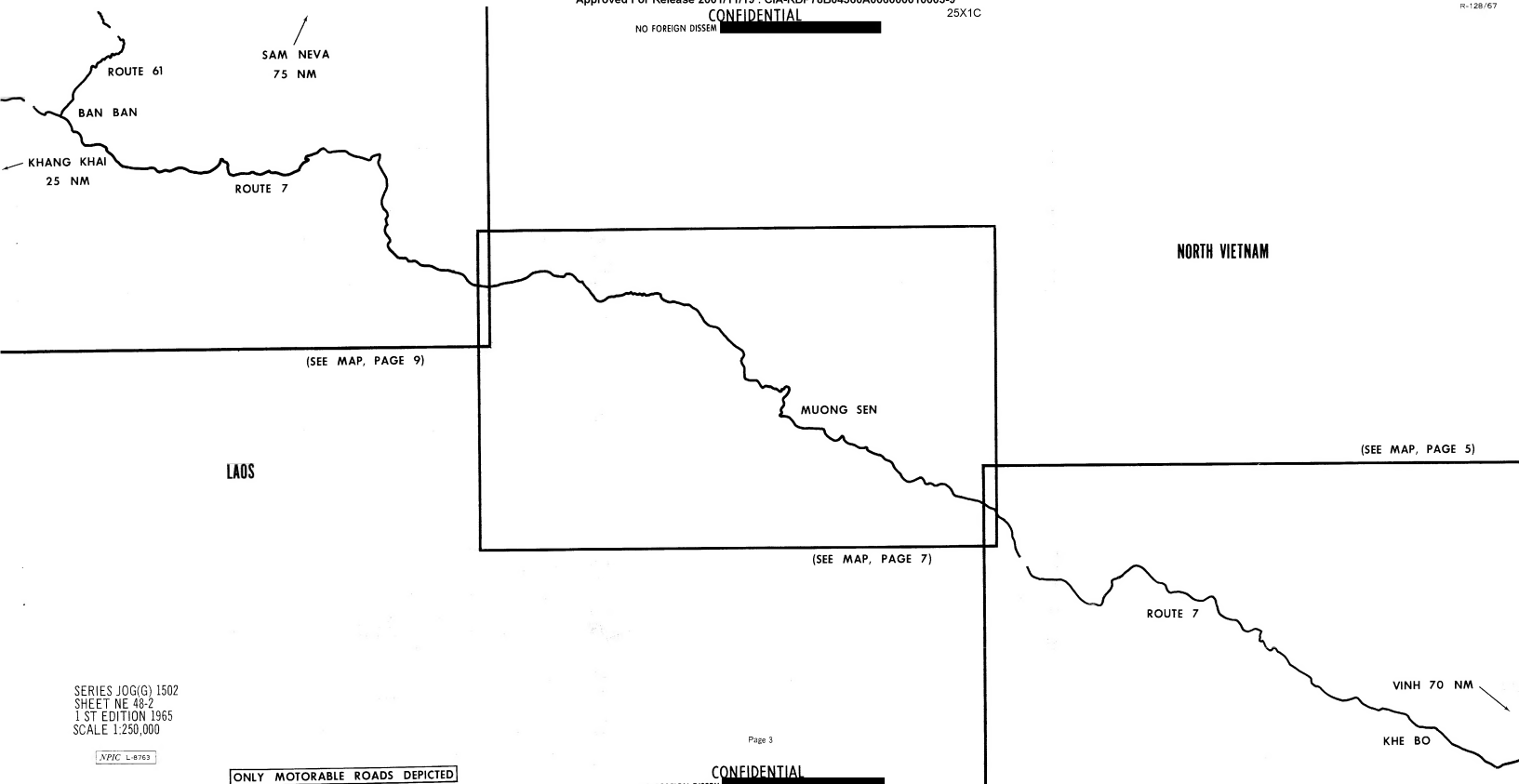
- 25X1D 1. Lignite Coal Mine, [REDACTED] Located on the east bank of the Song Ca (River) north of Route 7, this small horizontal-shaft mining operation utilizes two entrances, one of which incorporates a double transloading transportation system between extraction and the stockpile. This rail system also extends between the stockpiles to two coal loading chutes on the bank of the river. Raft construction is observed adjacent to the mine on the same river bank. Upon construction the rafts are coal loaded and apparently floated downstream toward Vinh. (Figures 4-7)
- 25X1D 2. Transshipment Area, [REDACTED] An access road extends

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(SEE MAP, PAGE 9)

(SEE MAP, PAGE 5)

(SEE MAP, PAGE 7)

SERIES JOG(G) 1502
SHEET NE 48-2
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ONLY MOTORABLE ROADS DEPICTED

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from Route 7 along the west bank of the Song Ca (river) with foot trails covering the remaining distance to the water. Up to 30 sampans [REDACTED] have been observed moored along both river banks. (Figure 1)

3. Truck Park, VG663182; Access road with several short parking slots.
4. Truck Park, VG637193; Series of single parking lanes.
5. Possible Rest and Refuel Area, VG626190; Vehicle tracks through abandoned village of Ban Tam Bong. Parking slots immediately south of village with vehicle tracks south along stream.
6. Truck Park, VG594209; Single parking lane.
7. Truck Park, VG591204; Single parking lane extending around hill.
8. Truck Park, VG545230; Series of short parking lanes on each side of Route 7.
9. Truck Park, VG531243; Interconnecting single parking lanes.
10. Probable Storage/Support Area; VG511249; At least 3 partially concealed buildings and trail network under tree canopy at termini of two access roads. (Figure 2)
11. Possible Support Area, VG519263; 4 partially concealed huts being maintained at edge of abandoned village site. (Figure 3)
12. Truck Park, VG481278; Three short parking lanes.
13. Vehicle Support Facility, VG386303; Four buildings and several short parking lanes (Figure 8)
14. Truck Park, VG322307; Single Parking lane.
15. Truck Park, VG302333; Single parking lane.
16. Truck Park, VG286370; Series of short parking lanes on each side of Route 7.
17. Truck Park, VG224400; Single parking lane (Figure 10).
18. Truck Park, VG210396; Single parking lane.
19. Truck Park, VG200409; Single parking lane.
20. [REDACTED]

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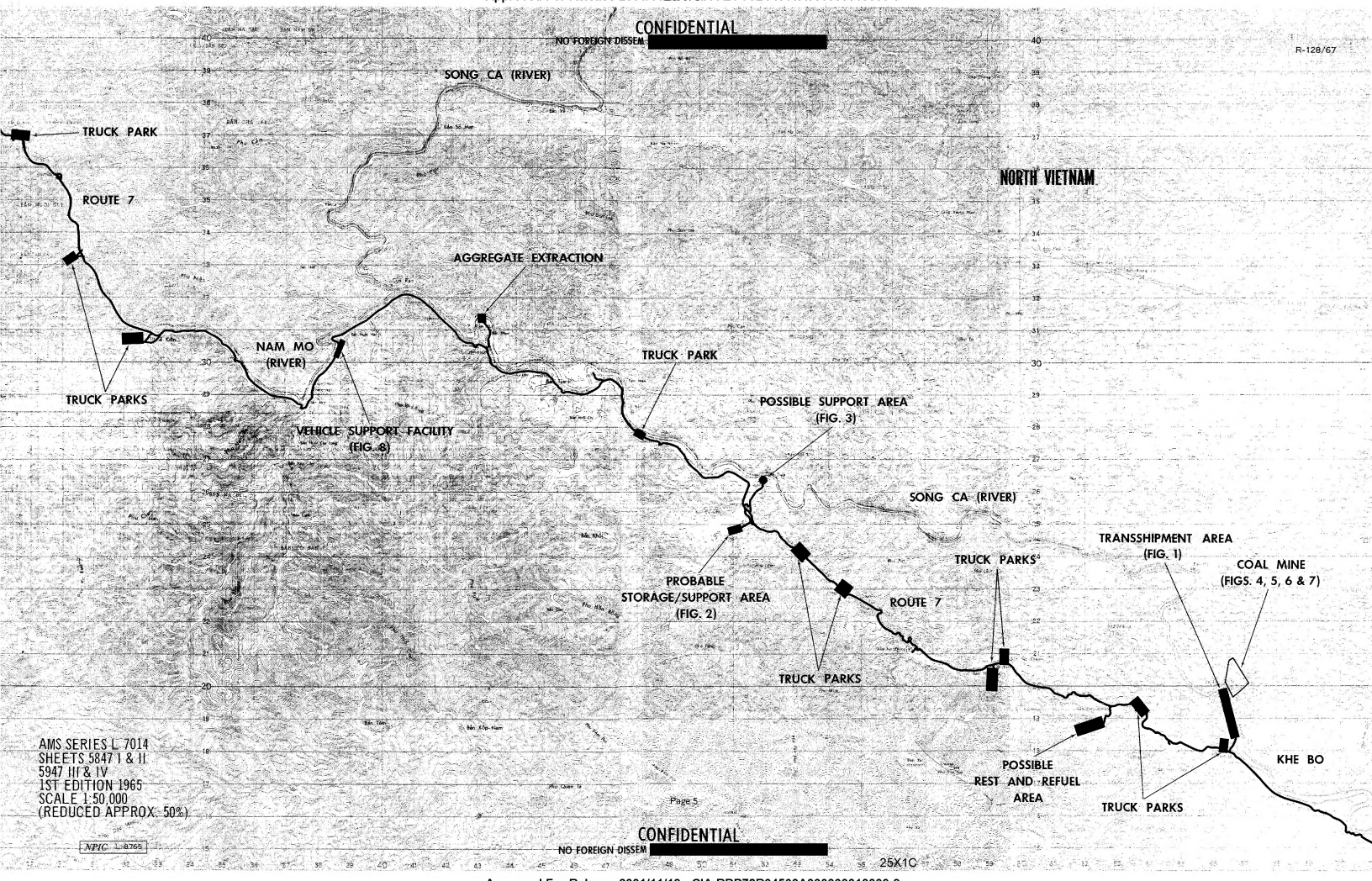
21. Truck Park, VG191417; Single-loop parking lane.
22. Truck Park, VG185418; Short parking lanes on each side of Route 7 (Figure 11)

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23. [REDACTED]
24. Probable Rest and Refuel Area, VG148431; Well-used loop road south of Route 7 through the rest area. Single parking loop north of Route 7 (Figure 13)
25. Truck Park, VG119441; Two short parking lanes south and one north of Route 7.

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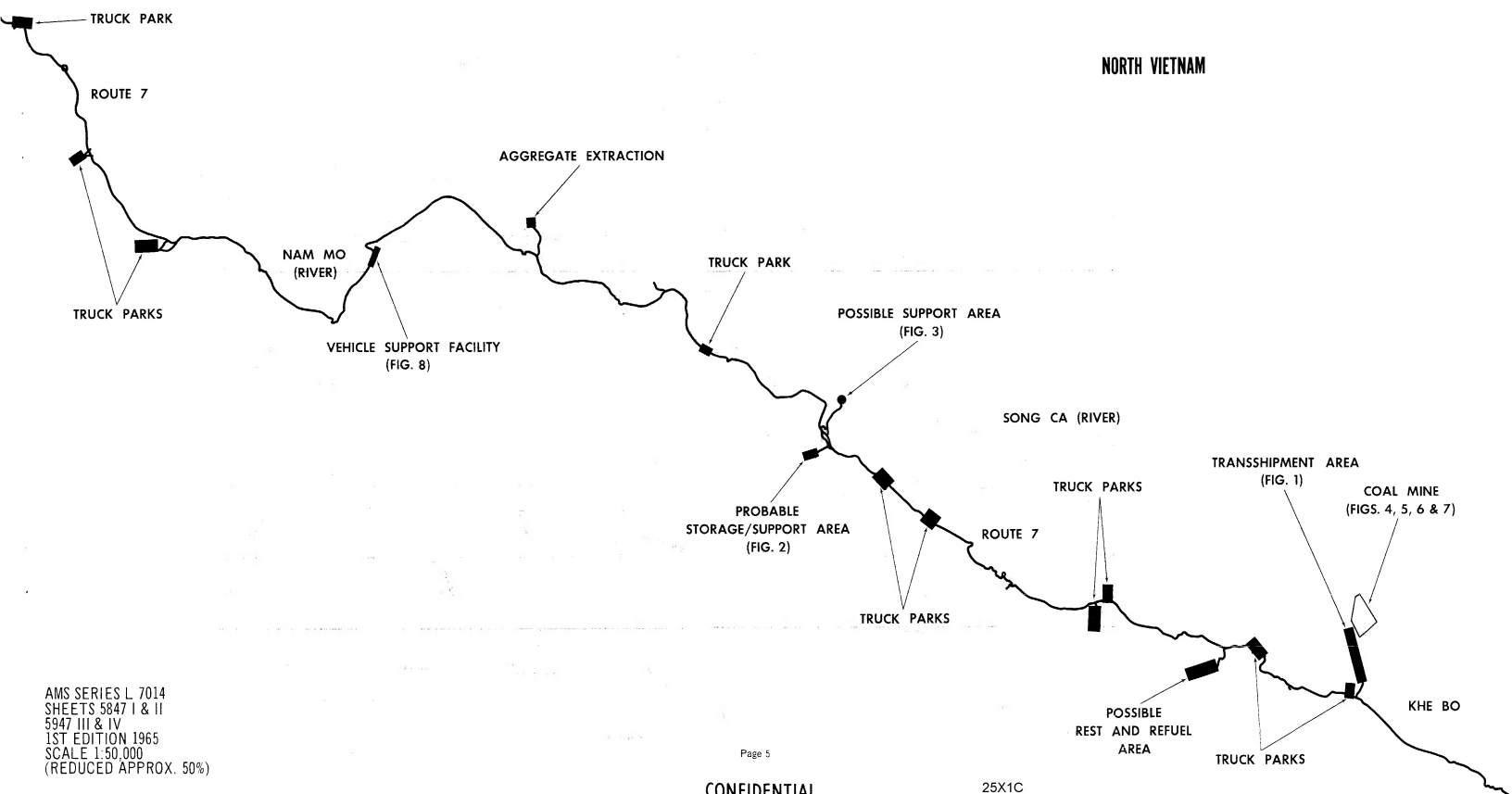
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SONG CA (RIVER)

NORTH VIETNAM



26. Possible Support Area, VG106446; Vehicle tracks south of Route 7 extending along the stream past three buildings.
27. Truck Park, VG106463; Single parking lanes on each side of road (Figure 17)
28. Truck Park, VG107465; Short parking lane.
29. Truck Park, VG109475; Short parking lane.
30. Truck Park, VG086476; Short divided parking lane.
- 25X1D 31. [REDACTED]
32. Truck Park, VG063512; Short parking lane.
- 25X1D 33. [REDACTED]
34. Truck Park, VG002553; Short parking lane.
35. Probable Military Camp/Storage Area, UG985559; Foot trails north from Route 7 to base of a karst hill. Four buildings, row crops, and two-man foxholes within the area. Parking slots across the road at UG982552. (Figure 15)
36. Truck Park, UG976556; Short dividing parking lane.
37. Truck Park, UG952545; Short loop road with extension at the base of a karst hill.
38. Truck Park, UG943561; Single parking lanes with several parking slots.
- 25X1D 39. [REDACTED]
40. [REDACTED]
41. [REDACTED]
42. [REDACTED]
43. [REDACTED]
44. Truck Park, UG770599 and UG770600; Single Parking lanes (Figure 22).
- 25X1D 45. [REDACTED]
46. Probable Rest and Refuel Area, UG768676; Vehicle Tracks Route 7 to an active truck park and bivouac area. Although subjected to air strikes, the area remains active. A second truck park is located at UG764678 with probable bivouac area nearby.
- 25X1D 47. [REDACTED]
48. Defense Positions, UG608673 and UG601674; Vehicle tracks to two unoccupied AAA sites.
49. Truck Park, UG547667; Single parking lane.

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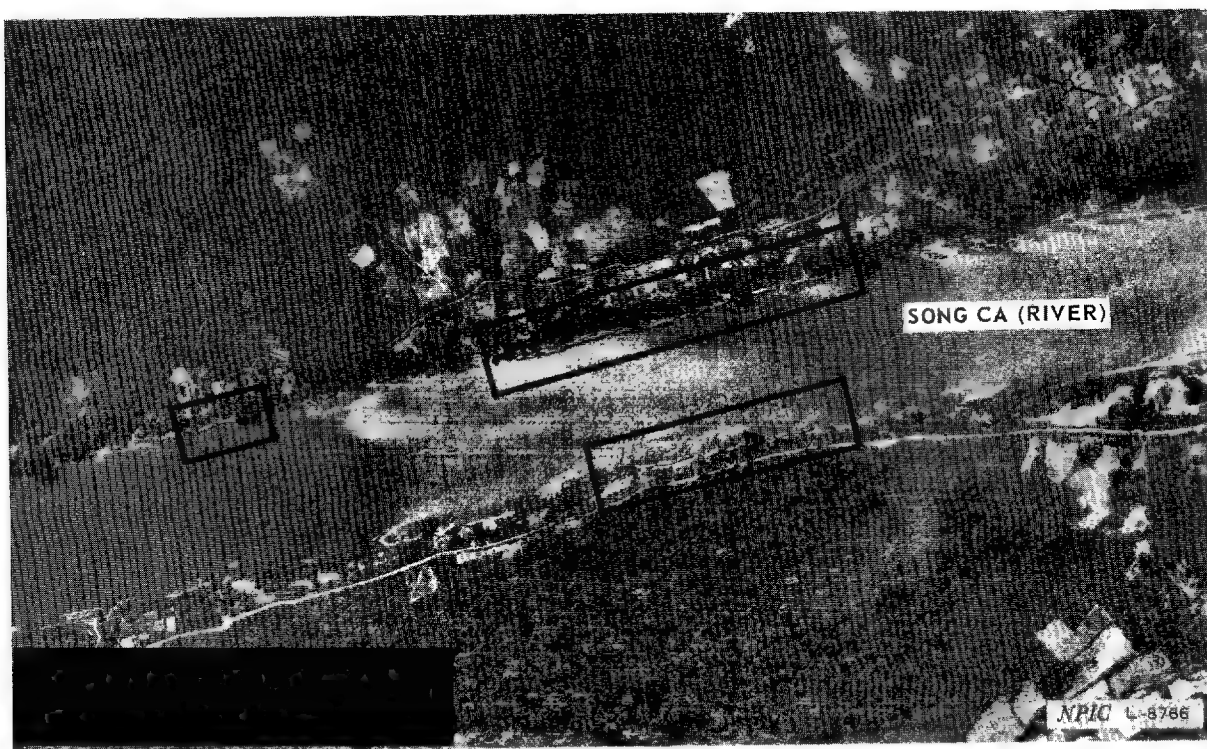
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50. Truck Park, UG544666; Single parking lane.
51. Truck Park, UG538672; Single parking lane (Figure 24).
52. Truck Park, UG536677; Single parking lane.
53. Truck Park, UG530681; Single parking lane.
54. Truck Park, UG519686; Single parking lane.
55. Truck Park, UG510688; Divided parking lane.



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FIGURE 1. MOORED SAMPANS (29 TOTAL), KHE BO TRANSHIPMENT AREA, NORTH VIETNAM

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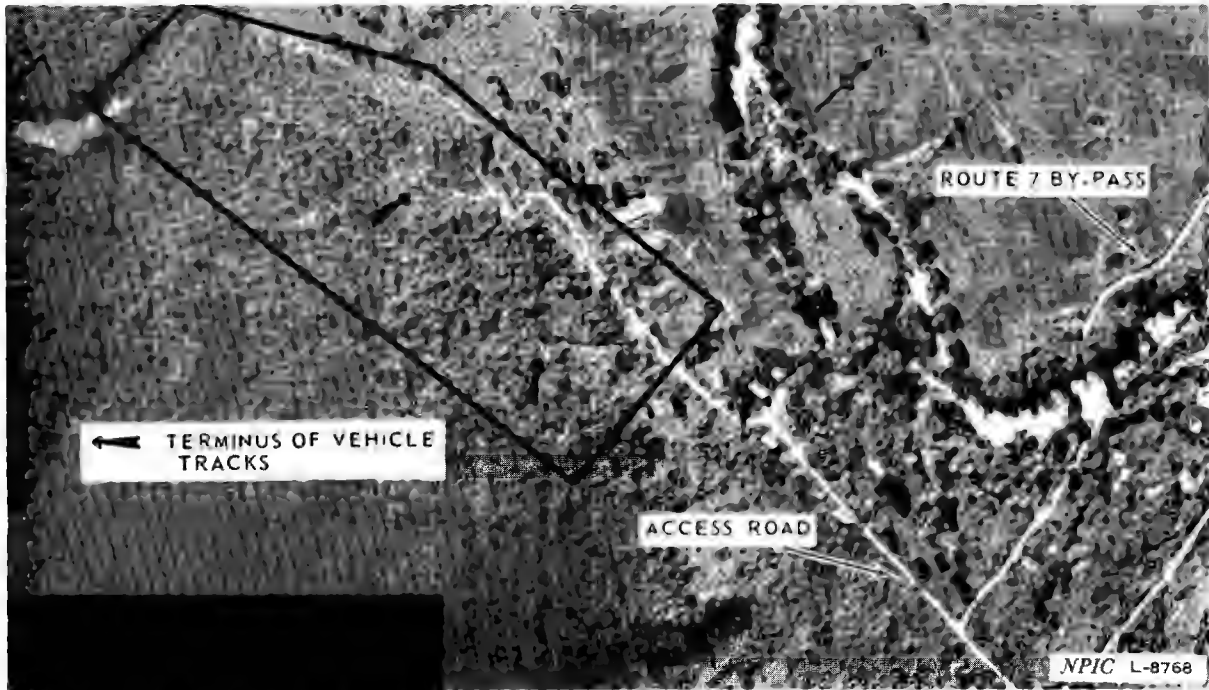
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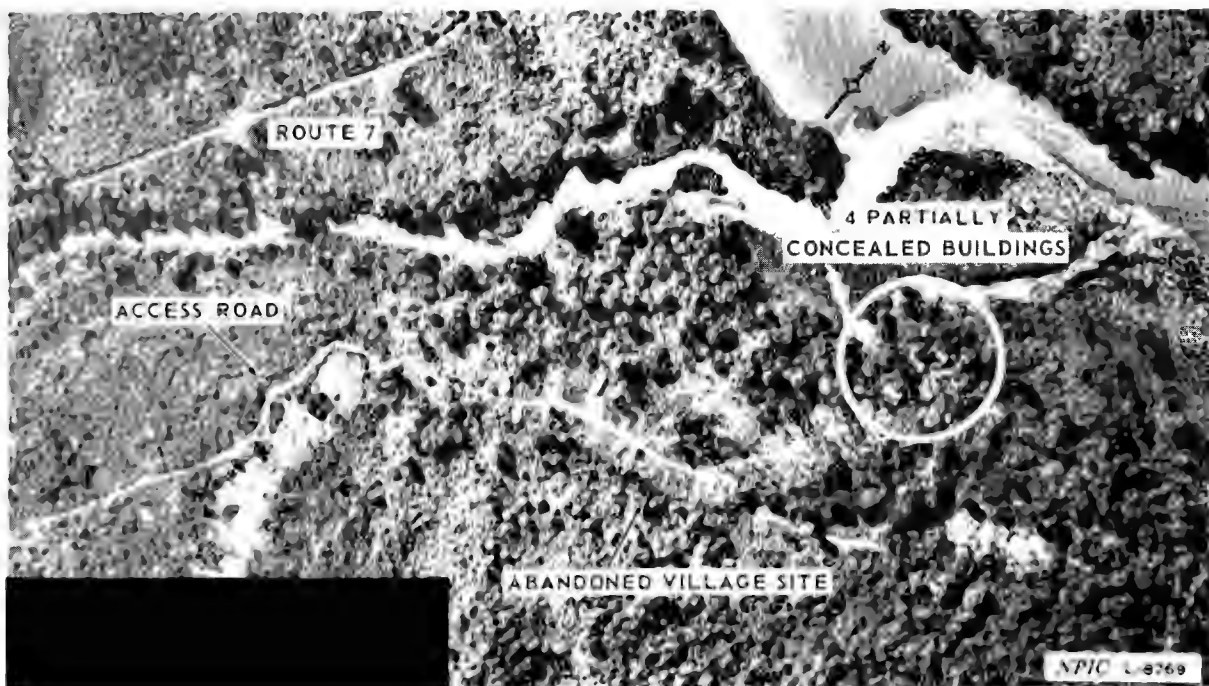
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FIGURE 2. PROBABLE STORAGE/SUPPORT AREA, ROUTE 7, NORTH VIETNAM



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FIGURE 3. POSSIBLE SUPPORT AREA, ROUTE 7, NORTH VIETNAM

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FIGURE 6. COAL MINE, BAN XA MU, NORTH VIETNAM

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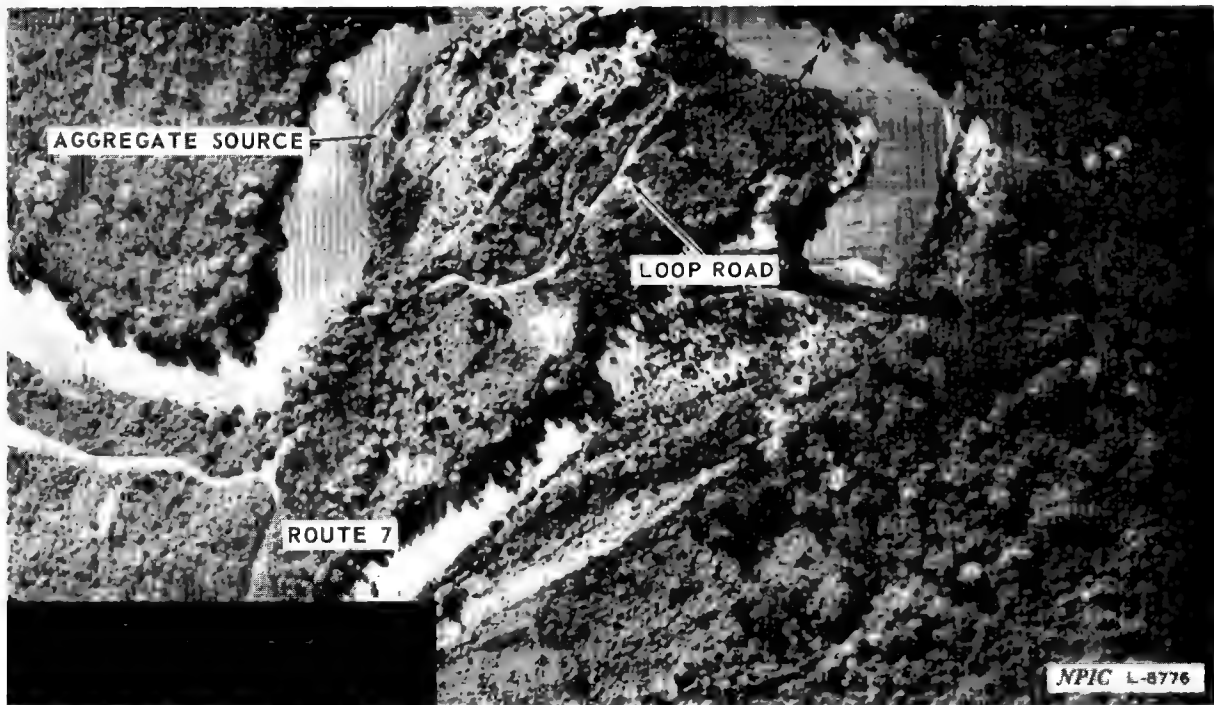


FIGURE 9. AGGREGATE EXTRACTION, ROUTE 7, NORTH VIETNAM

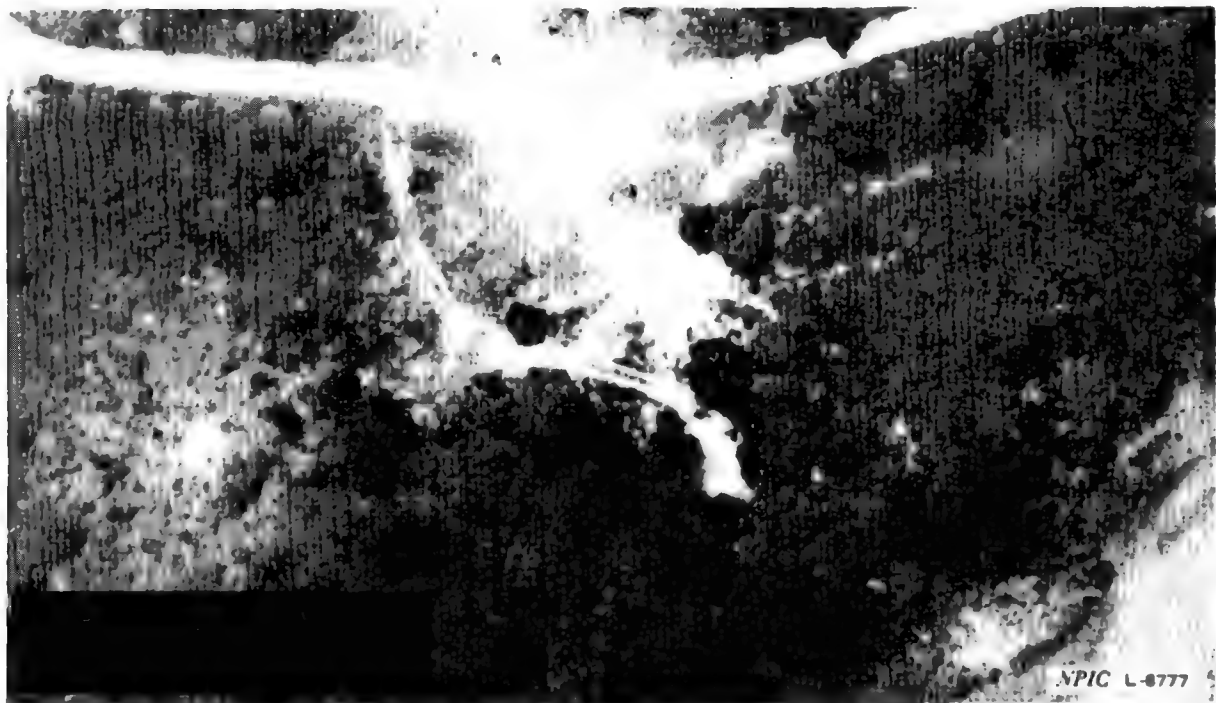


FIGURE 10. TRUCK PARK, ROUTE 7, NORTH VIETNAM

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FIGURE 11. SINGLE LANE TRUCK PARKS, ROUTE 7, NORTH VIETNAM

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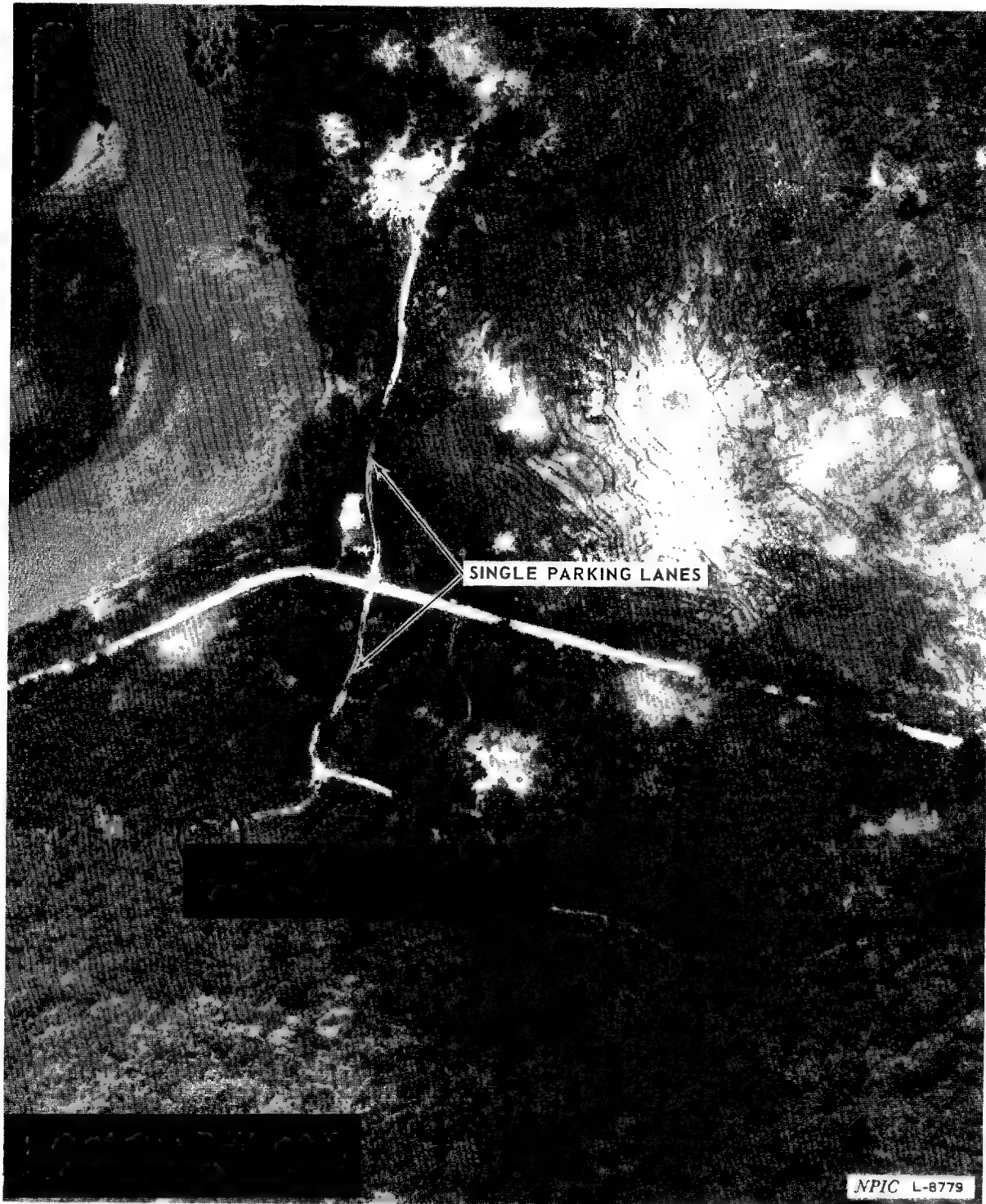


FIGURE 12. TRUCK PARKS [REDACTED] ROUTE 7, NORTH VIETNAM

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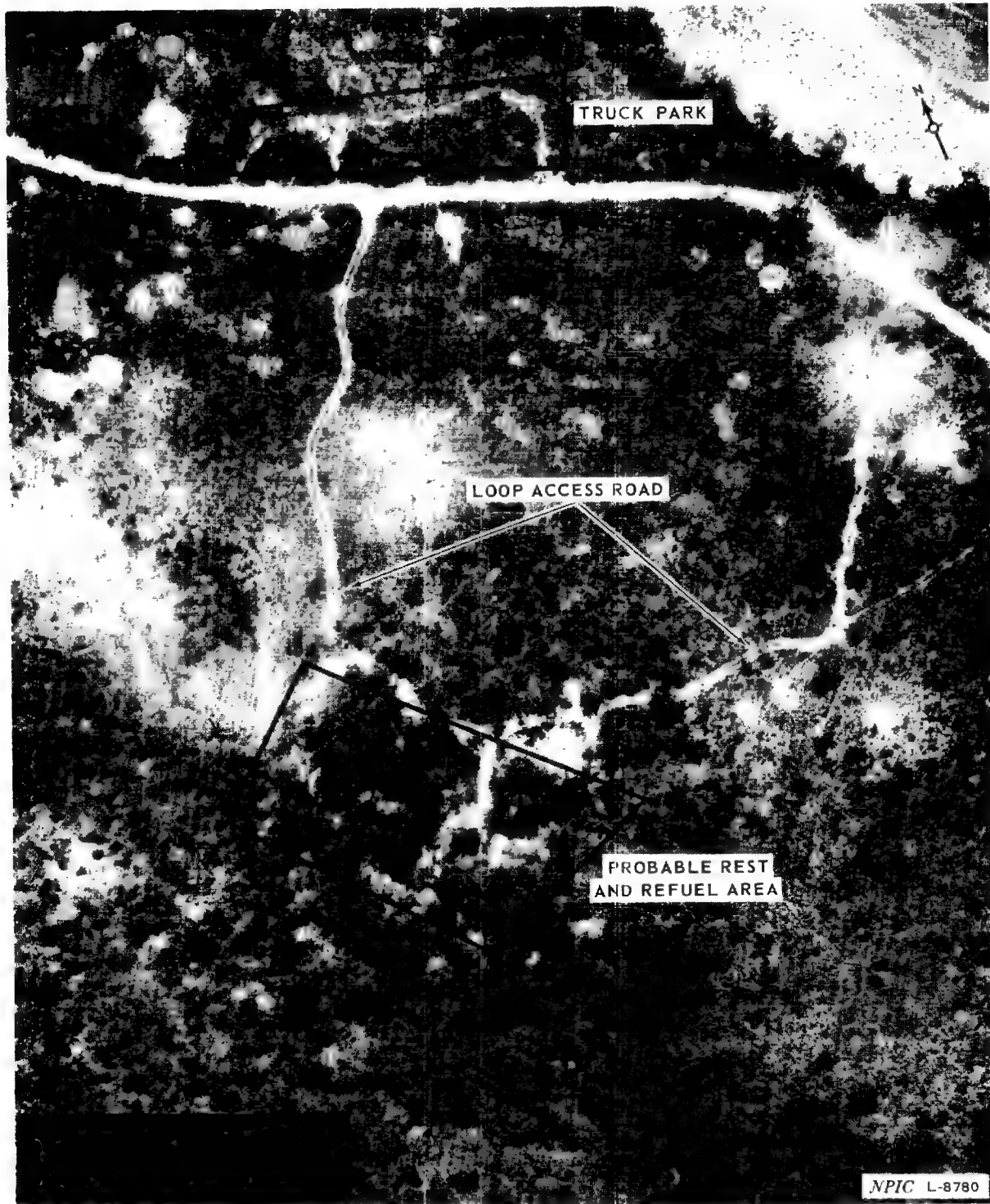


FIGURE 13. PROBABLE REST AND REFUEL AREA, ROUTE 7, NORTH VIETNAM

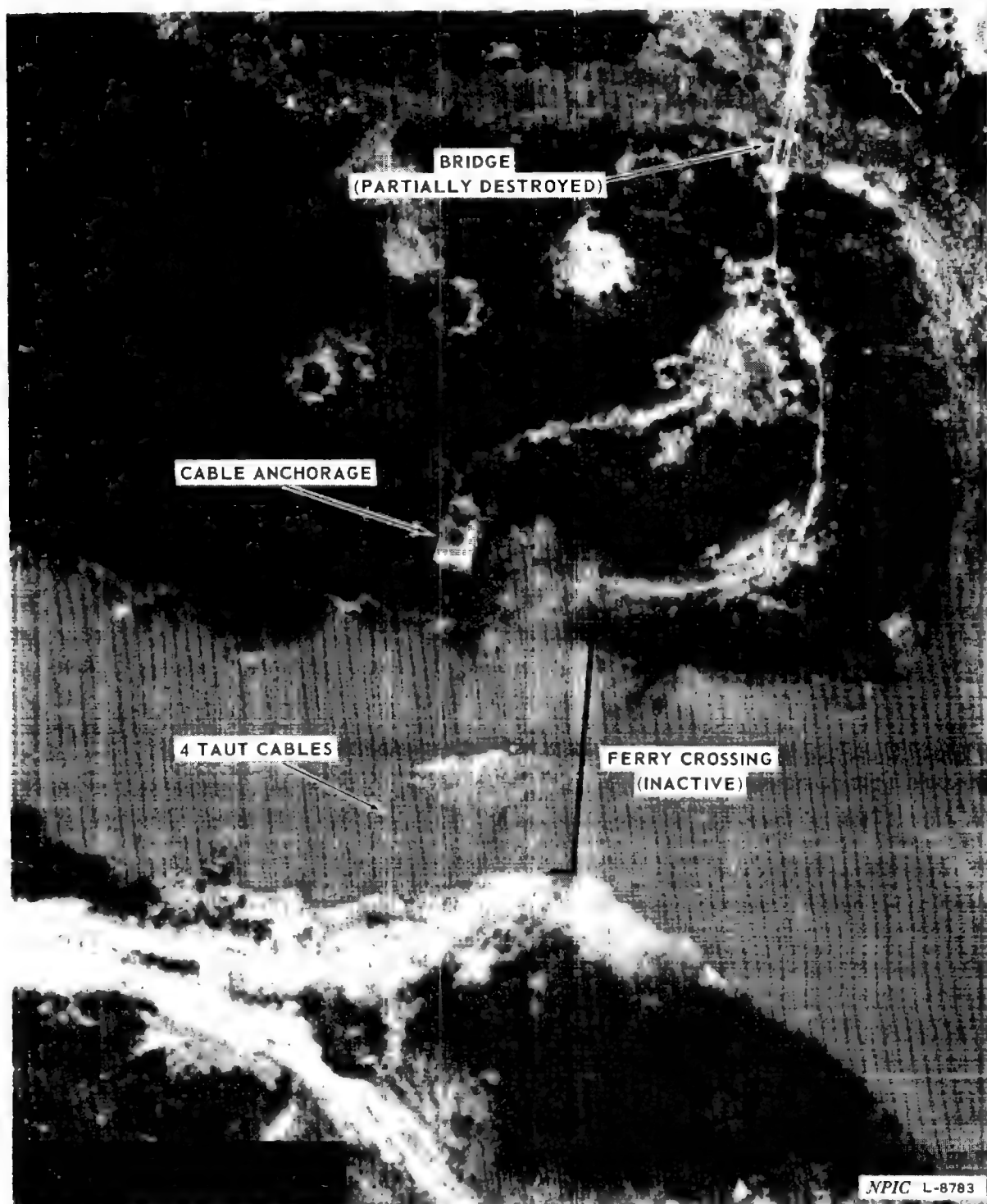
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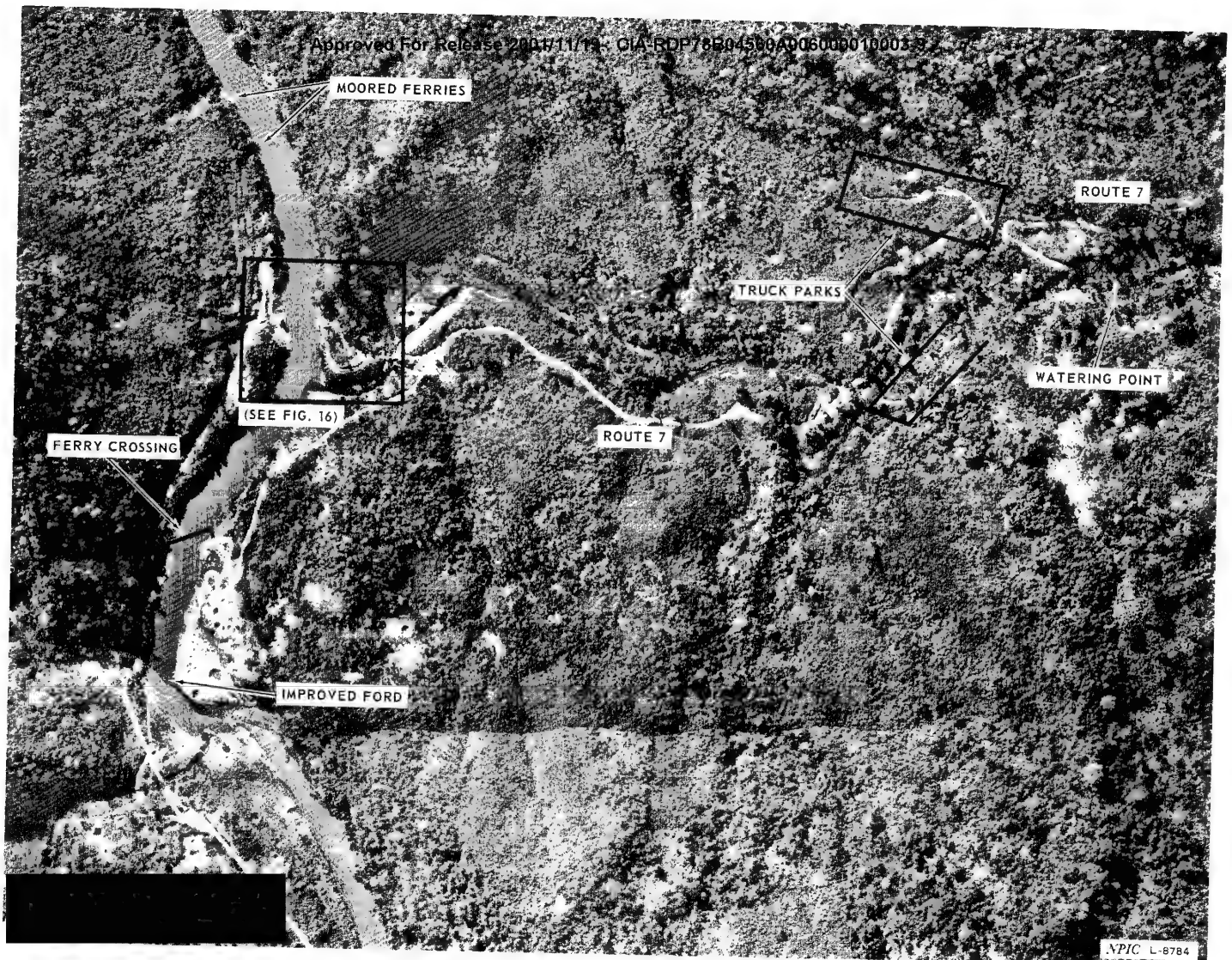
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FIGURE 16. ABANDONED CABLE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION, NAM MO (RIVER), NORTH VIETNAM

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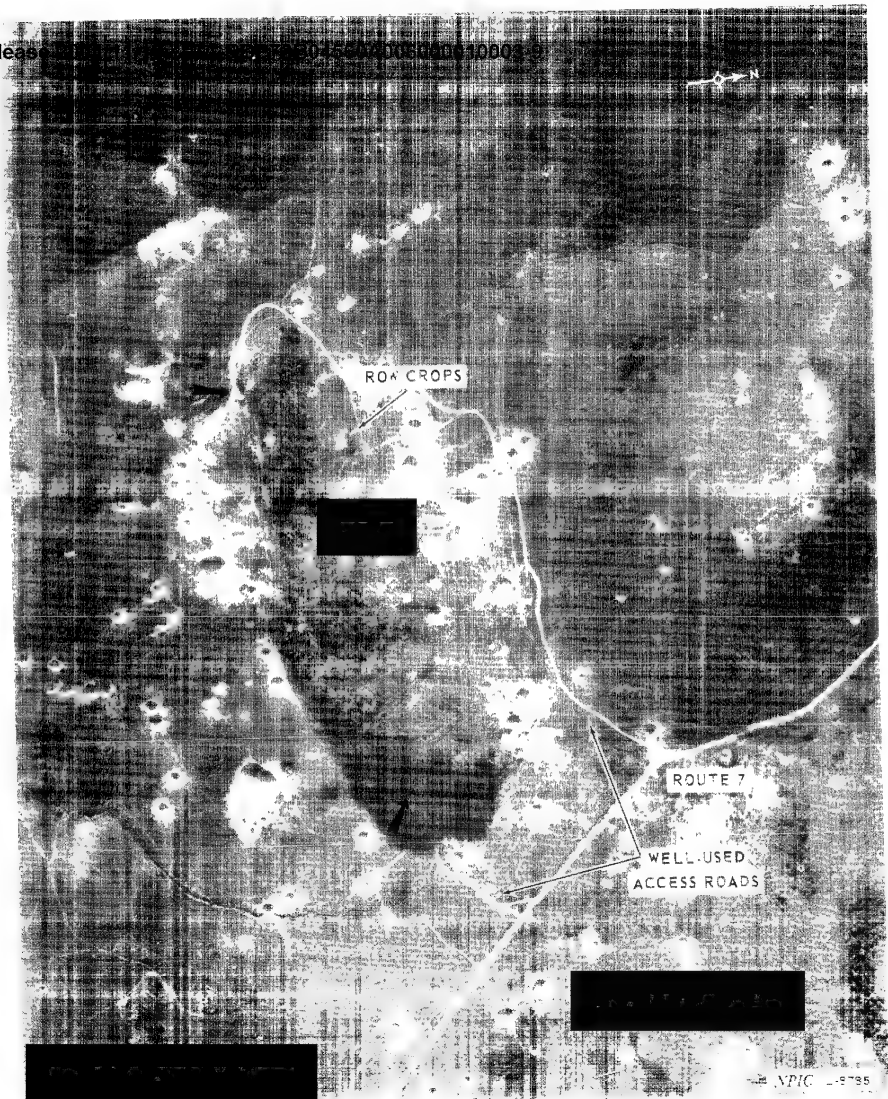


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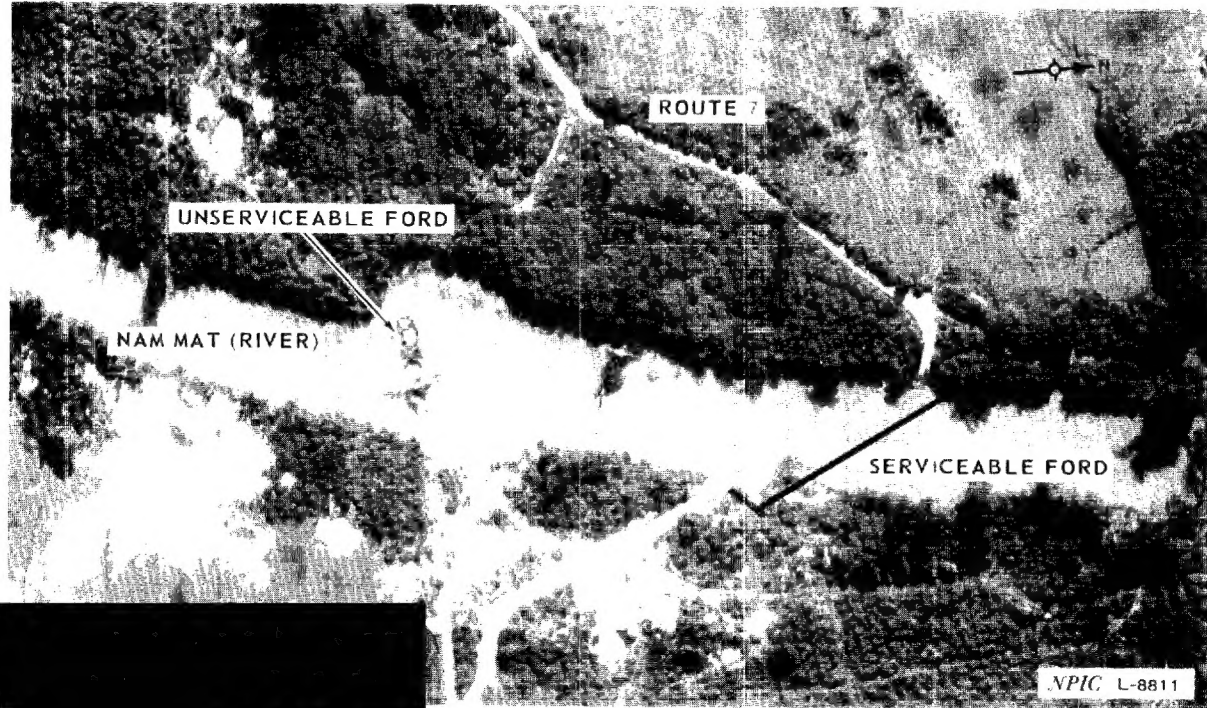
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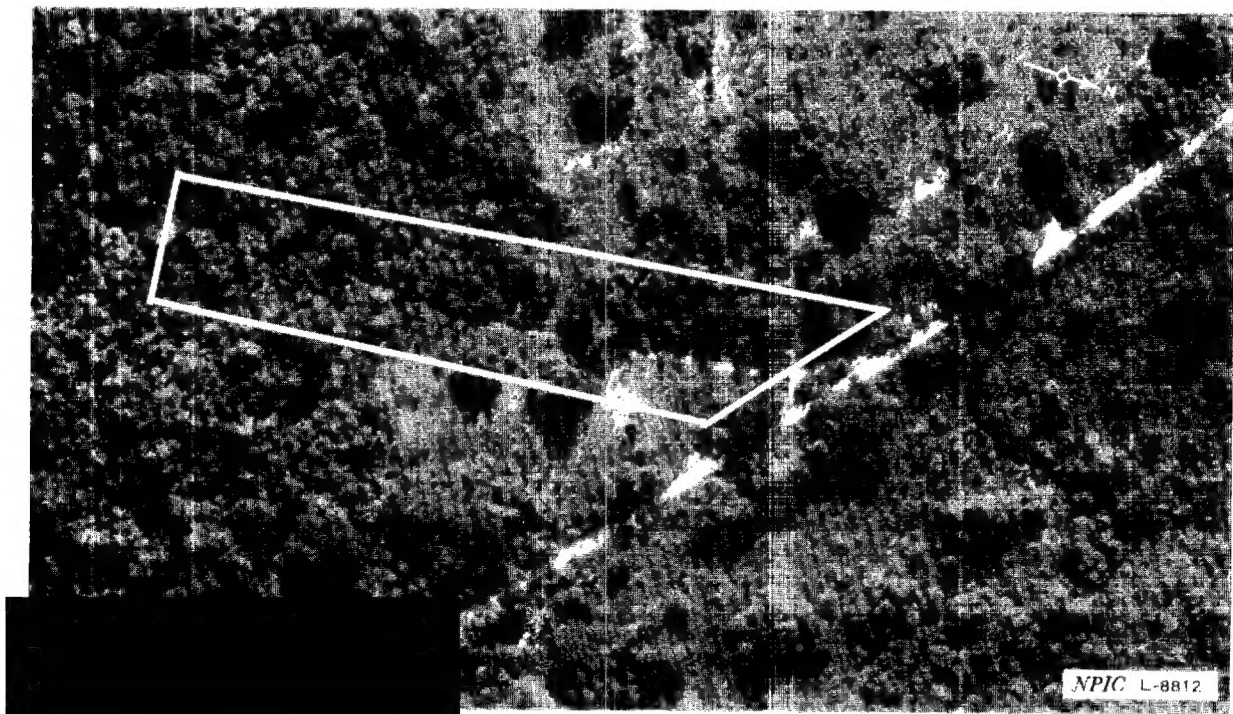
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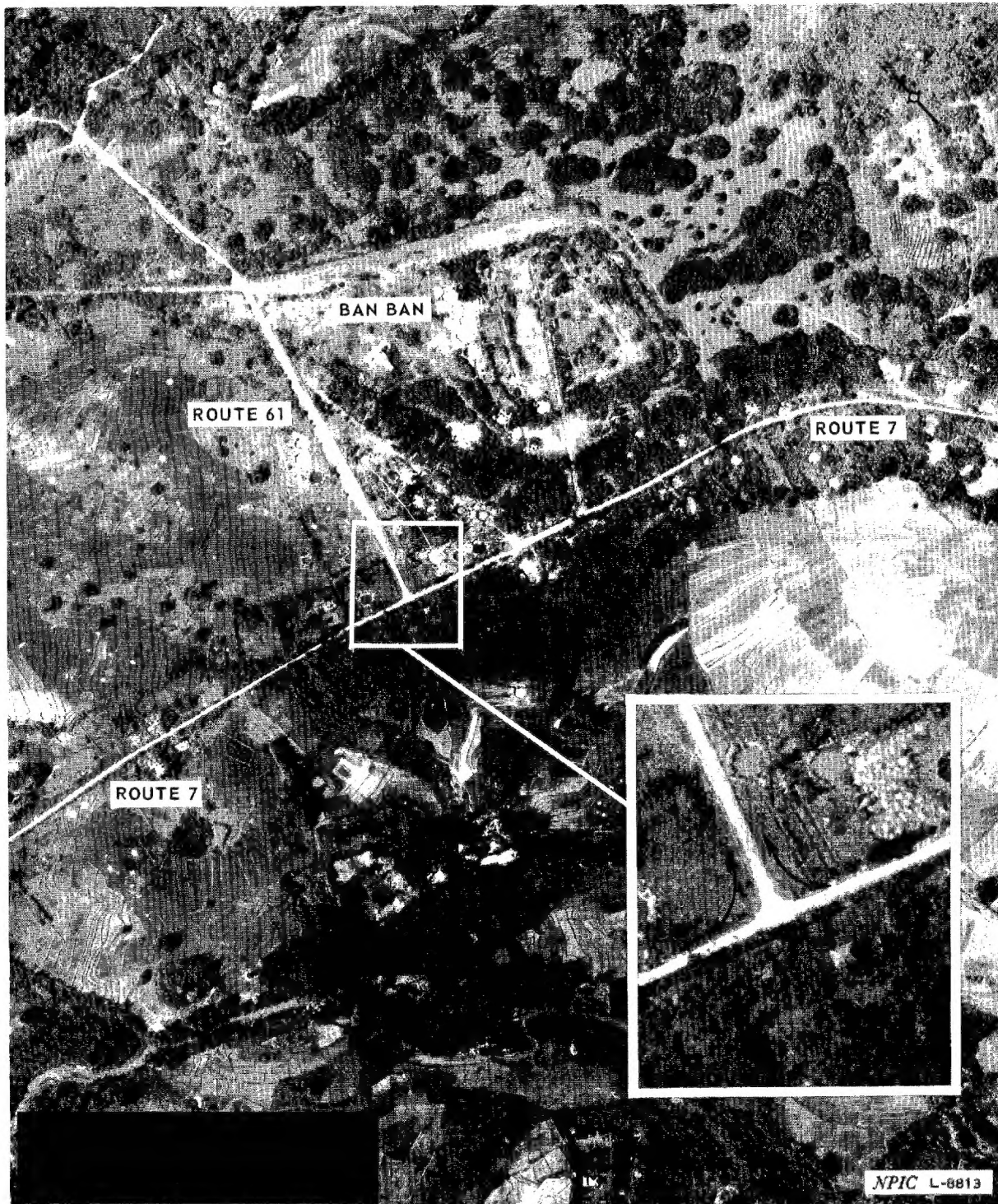
FIGURE 23. ROUTE 7 RIVER CROSSINGS, NAM MAT (RIVER), LAOS



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FIGURE 24. SINGLE LANE TRUCK PARK, ROUTE 7, LAOS

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FIGURE 25. JUNCTION OF ROUTES 7 AND 61, BAN BAN, LAOS

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